

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02

CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 /061 W

-----041789 031022Z /10

R 021643Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0912

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS LONDON 19706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMMUNITY REACTION TO  
PIRACY INCIDENTS IN LAGOS

REF: (A) STATE 285618; (B) LAGOS 13866

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED HAROLD LEWIS OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (ITF) TO INQUIRE ABOUT MEETING REPORTED NOV. 29 JOURNAL OF COMMERCE. LEWIS, WHO IS KNOWN TO EMBASSY FROM ASSOCIATIONS WITH HIM IN IMCO, THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION, AND WHO IS CONSIDERED VERY RELIABLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD, COMPLAINED THAT THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE REPORT, AND THE EARLIER NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT THE ITF WAS CALLING FOR A BOYCOTT OF LAGOS WERE GROSS DISTORTIONS. AS TO THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE REPORT, SATTIS HAD COME FOR A MEETING SCHEDULED MONTHS AGO AND VAN ZUYLEN VISITS THE ITF EVERY MONTH. THERE IS NO BOYCOTT AND ONE WAS NEVER PROPOSED.

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WHAT THE ITF DID WAS CIRCULATE ITS MEMBER UNIONS ABOUT THE LAGOS SITUATION, INFORM THEM THAT THE DANISH UNION HAD ADVISED ITS MEMBERS NOT TO SIGN ON TO SHIPS GOING TO NIGERIA, AND SUGGEST THAT THEY CONSIDER WHAT ACTIONS THEY SHOULD TAKE (EMBASSY IS OBTAINING A COPY OF CIRCULAR NOTICE). EMBASSY SHIPPING ATTACHE INFORMED LEWIS OF THE LAGOS PRESS COMMENTS IN REFTTEL (B). LEWIS SAID THAT ON

NOV. 30, ITF HAD SENT A LETTER TO THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT (FMG) STATING ITF'S CONCERN WITH THE SITUATION AND INQUIRING ABOUT THE MEASURES FMG WAS TAKING TO DEAL WITH SITUATION. LETTER OFFERED TO CONVEY TO ITF MEMBERS FMG MEASURES AND STATED THAT ITF UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SITUATION COULD NOT BE RECTIFIED OVERNIGHT. ITF IS HOPING FOR A COOPERATIVE RESPONSE FROM FMG. LEWIS RE-EMPHASIZED THAT ITF WAS NOT MOUNTING A BOYCOTT AGAINST NIGERIA, REGRETTED USE OF THE WORD BY THE PRESS, AND IN ANY EVENT COULD NOT SINCE ITS MEMBER UNIONS WOULD HAVE TO VOTE ON SUCH AN ACTION. HE ALSO SAID ITF HAD CONTACTED ITS AFFILIATE UNION IN NIGERIA IN THE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN HAVING FMG ADOPT ADEQUATE SECURITY MEASURES.

2. EMBASSY WAS EARLIER CONTACTED BY ISF, INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING FEDERATION (MR. BROWNRIG), INQUIRING WHETHER US HAD OR WAS GOING TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO FMG AS NORDICS AND UK HAD DONE. EMBASSY PROVIDED BROWNRIG WITH INFORMATION FROM USEFUL EMBASSY LAGOS REPORTING CABLES AND INQUIRED WHAT SHIPOWNERS WERE PLANNING TO DO. HE INDICATED THEY HAD NOT DECIDED ON A PLAN OF COMMON ACTION BUT THAT NATIONAL SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS WERE URGING THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO FMG. ISF WAS ALSO CONSULTING WITH ITF. HE SAID THAT NORDIC SHIPOWNERS WERE CONSIDERING HAVING THEIR SHIPS STEAM

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OUT FROM LAGOS EVERY NIGHT TO 25 MILES OFFSHORE.

3. ITF AND ISF ARE WORRIED BY DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION AMONG PIRATES AND BY REPORTS FROM SEVERAL OF THE SHIPS ATTACKED THAT PIRATES KNEW LOCATION OF THEIR CARGOES WORTH LOOTING. ONE REPORT TO THE ITF SUGGESTED THAT INTELLIGENCE REACHING PIRATES MAY BE GATHERED AT ACCRA WHERE SHIPS HAVE MADE PREVIOUS STOPS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING OF ANY US REPRESENTATIONS TO FMG ABOUT WHICH IT MAY INFORM THE ISF AND ITF.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, POLICIES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 285618, 77 LAGOS 13866  
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**Subject:** INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMMUNITY REACTION TO PIRACY INCIDENTS IN LAGOS  
**TAGS:** EWWT, ELAB, NI, ITF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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